



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: July 1, 2013
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS & PARTNERS PREPARE FOR BART STRIKE

Oakland - The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and its transportation and business partners are preparing for the BART strike today. Drivers should expect extended metering light hours on bridges and on-ramps, longer travel times and heavy traffic.

Ridesharing on High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Carpool Lanes: HOV carpool lane hours on the freeways within the Bay Bridge corridor, I-80 from the Carquinez Bridge to the Bay Bridge, in the East Bay will be temporarily extended from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted) to match the existing hours for Route 80 and the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge toll plaza. These HOV conversion hours will be temporary for the duration of the strike.

I-80/West Grand Avenue On-ramp Restriction: The I-80/West Grand Avenue on-ramp from Maritime Street in Oakland to the Bay Bridge toll plaza will be restricted only to public transit, HOV and commercial vehicles on weekdays from 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Vehicles with 3 or more occupants, buses, motorcycles and commercial trucks will be allowed during these times.

Park & Ride Meetings for Carpool or Other Public Transit: BART is keeping its parking lots open for carpoolers. The Bay Area's Park and Ride lots are accessible to freeways and provide good meeting places to form carpools. Other public transit options also stop at many Park & Ride lots. All Caltrans lots in the Bay Area are listed on <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/highwayops/parkandride> with locations, total number of parking spaces in each lot, amenities, linked maps, lot diagrams and transit links and lot guidelines.

Information about the BART strike is also made available on San Francisco Bay Area





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511 traveler information service website www.rideshare.511.org, <http://alert.511.org>/ or by dialing 511 from any Bay Area telephone area codes

The Bay Area's 511 traveler information system-available 24/7 at www.511.org or on the phone by dialing 511-provides a comprehensive, one-stop resource for evaluating travel alternatives. A special BART strike webpage at alert.511.org includes updates on BART's service status, alternative transit and ridesharing options, and real-time traffic and transit information.

The consequences of a BART strike on Bay Area traffic would be significant as approximately 400,000 riders would put extra pressure on the freeway system and other public transit systems. Therefore, 511.org and Caltrans recommend that commuters:

- Telecommute or avoid traveling altogether,
- Form a carpool or try casual carpooling,
- Take advantage of free parking at any BART station or Park & Ride lot to meet your carpool,
- Adjust work hours (leave early or stay late),
- Ride a bike, and
- Allow extra time for trips.

Here is additional information about transportation alternatives to BART and some of the steps being taken to prepare for the effects of a strike on regional transportation: Extra Caltrans' Bay Bridge Bicycle Shuttle: Caltrans will deploy a second bicycle trailer during the commute periods to provide additional bicycle shuttle service between Oakland and the San Francisco Transbay Terminal.

Extra Caltrans' Tow Service: Caltrans will be adding additional drivers during peak periods to enhance services on the following bridges: San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, San Mateo-Hayward Bridge, Dumbarton Bridge and Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. The Freeway Service Patrol will expand tow service hours by one hour earlier and one hour later than usual in affected BART corridors.

Extra Toll collectors: The seven Bay Area toll bridges will have extra toll collectors to manage the increase in traffic demand. At the Bay Bridge toll plaza all cash toll booths will be fully staffed as early as 4:00 a.m. Electronic toll payment with FasTrak is strongly encouraged. Both 511.org and BART's web page have links for FasTrak sign ups.

Metering Light Optimization: All metering lights will be adjusted on weekdays and weekends to adjust to any increased traffic flow across the Bay Bridge.





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Reduced Lane Closures: Lane closures for maintenance and construction are being deferred to off-peak hours, overnight or to a later date whenever possible.

Additional Traffic Monitoring and Incident Response: Caltrans is deploying field personnel to conduct real-time monitoring of traffic conditions along BART corridors and identify potential problems and provide updated reports. Caltrans personnel will work to clear any traffic incidents and accidents as quickly as possible.

Changeable Message Signs: Caltrans will activate changeable message signs and highway advisory radios with useful traffic conditions, travel and carpool information. For additional BART strike information visit: <http://alert.511.org/>.

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